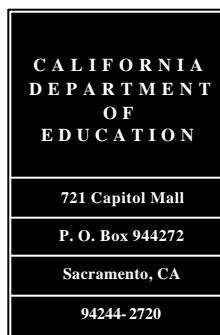




DELAINE EASTIN
State Superintendent of Public Instruction



May 10, 2001

TO: Superintendents of Districts with Low-Performing Schools

SUBJECT: SECOND TEACHING AS A PRIORITY (TAP) PROGRAM APPLICATION NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to inform school districts, which are eligible for TAP funds, but did not initially apply, of this second application opportunity. This state-funded program is designed to support school districts' recruitment and retention incentives to increase the number of fully credentialed teachers teaching in low-performing schools.

Background: SB 1666 (Chapter 70, Senator Alarcon) provides \$118.65 million statewide during FY 2000-01, to districts for incentives to recruit and retain fully credentialed teachers to teach in low-performing schools, defined as schools with an Academic Performance Index (API) ranking in deciles 1-5. School districts must apply on behalf of their eligible schools. Districts have wide latitude in establishing and tailoring incentives to meet their local needs. Incentives may include, but are not limited to signing bonuses, housing subsidies, and improved work conditions. Funding is based on enrollment and API scores. Schools with an API in deciles 1-3 receive one and a half times the funding as schools with an API in deciles 4-5.

Application Process: The TAP program application may be downloaded from www.cde.ca.gov/funding. It contains a verbatim version of the TAP section of SB 1666, *Frequently Asked Questions*, Request for Application (RFA), and district allocation.

The most common type of incentives are signing bonuses, relocation and housing assistance, bonuses for additional certification, and improved work conditions. Please note that physical plant improvement, funding for infrastructure needs such as technology, and funding for out-of-country recruitment are not allowable. Applicants need to provide clear rationale and explanation for each of the proposed incentives and be responsive to all of the narrative questions in the application.

Two hard copies of the application are due to the California Department of Education (CDE) office by June 5, 2001. Award announcements are expected the week of June 11, 2001. The application information contains pertinent information and instructions. Questions may be addressed to Robert Cervantes, Manager, Curriculum Leadership Unit, at (916) 323-6127, or e-mail rcervant@cde.ca.gov.

Important dates: Applications Due.....June 5
Award Notification.....June 11

It is my hope that you will consider this opportunity and apply for funding.

Sincerely,

Joanne Mendoza, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instructional Leadership Branch
JM:rc